

ED

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/766,705

Examiner

Helen Nguyen

Applicant(s)

LEONHARDT ET AL.

Art Unit

3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2007/05/29.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 5, 11, 16-18, 20, 25-37, 39-48.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20070808</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Duncan on 8/8/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

An electrode belt for electrical impedance tomography, the electrode belt comprising:

a belt material;

16 or more electrodes connected to said belt material, said belt material being elastic in some sections such that said belt material can be stretched from a non-stretched state to a stretched state, the electrode belt fully surrounding a test subject to be examined over the circumference of the body;

electrode feed lines extending within one or more hollow elastic tubes, each electrode feed line having a defined length, said electrode feed lines being integrated within said belt material such that the entire length of each electrode feed line extends within said belt material, ~~each electrode feed line connecting one electrode to another electrode~~, each electrode feed line having a length between electrodes that is greater than the length of ~~belt material~~ said tubes between electrodes when the belt material is in a non-stretched state; and

Art Unit: 3736

a feed line, said electrode feed line being connected to said feed line at one or more feed points along said belt material.

Claim 25:

An electrode belt for electrical impedance tomography, the electrode belt comprising:

an electrode holder having a defined length for surrounding the body of a test subject, said electrode holder being composed of a stretch material [[:]] , said electrode holder comprising one or more hollow elastic tubes;

16 or more electrodes, said 16 or more electrodes being located on said electrode holder, each electrode being positioned along said electrode holder at a spaced location from an adjacent electrode to define an electrode holder portion;

electrode feed lines extending within said one or more hollow elastic tubes, each electrode feed line having a defined length, said electrode feed length extending within said stretch material, said stretch material surrounding the length of said electrode feed line, ~~each electrode feed line connecting one electrode and another electrode along said electrode holder portion to define an electrode feed line portion, said each~~ electrode feed line ~~portion~~ having a length that is greater than the length of said electrode holder portion when the electrode holder stretch material is in a non-stretched state; and

an external feed line, said external feed line being connected to said electrode feed lines at one or more connection sites on said electrode holder.

Art Unit: 3736

Claim 26:

An electrode belt for electrical impedance tomography, the electrode belt comprising:

an electrode holding belt, said electrode holding belt comprising one or more elastic tubes;

16 or more electrodes, said 16 or more electrodes being positioned on said electrode holding belt;

electrode feed lines extending within the one or more hollow elastic tubes, said electrode feed lines having a length between electrodes that is greater than a length of said elastic tubes in a non stretched state; and

a primary connection line, said primary connection line being joined to said electrode feed lines at one or more primary connection sites on said electrode holding belt.

Claim 48:

An electrode belt for electrical impedance tomography, the electrode belt comprising:

a belt material, said belt material comprising three or more tubes, which extend in parallel and are connected section by section via a tube mounting piece;

16 or more electrodes on said belt material, said belt material being elastic in some sections, the electrode belt fully surrounding a test subject to be examined over the circumference of the body;

electrode feed lines, said electrode feed lines being integrated within said ~~belt material~~ tubes;

Art Unit: 3736

shaped elements provided as padding for two or more adjacent said electrodes for covering a sternal or spinal depression of the test subject, wherein a gel pad located between outer tubes and a middle tube is provided as said shaped element; and

a feed line, said electrode feed line being connected to said feed line at one or more feed points along said belt material, each electrode feed line having a length between electrodes that is greater than the length of said tubes between electrodes when the belt material is in a non-stretched state.

Specification:

The following amendments to the specification reflect the terminology presently recited in the claims, as already depicted in the submitted drawings.

In ¶0006, amend sentence 3 (p.3 line 1-2) to read:

Electrode feed lines are provided, which extend along the belt material and are connected to a feed line (primary connection line) at least at one feed point (primary connection site).

In ¶0018, amend the first sentence to read:

The electrode belt advantageously comprises at least three strands (tubes), which extend in parallel and are connected section by section via cross struts (tube mounting piece), the electrodes being arranged directly at the cross struts.

Art Unit: 3736

In ¶0033, amend to read:

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a detail of an electrode belt with three strands (tubes).

In ¶0042, amend sentence 5 (p.11 line11-12) to read:

The electrode feed lines are connected to a feed line (primary connection line) 6 at a feed point (primary connection site) 4, at which a belt closure 5 is located.

In ¶0051, amend the first sentence to read:

Figure 10 shows a perspective view of an electrode belt 106, which comprises three strands (tubes) 75, 76, 77, which extend in parallel and are connected to one another section by section via cross struts (tube mounting piece) 78.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helen Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-8340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on 571-272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3736

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HQN
8/8/2007

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